

REMARKS

Independent method Claim 2 is revised to further define a novel and unobvious combination of method elements comprising the present invention, and new independent apparatus Claim 39 is added in place of Claim 22. Claim 22 and several other claims are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 4-16, 19-21, 26-36, and 39 remain, with no claim previously allowed.

Claims 2 and 4-38 were rejected as unpatentable over *Tsai* (US 6,567,676) in view of *Nakamura* (US 6,252,495) and *Stanley* (US 2002/0068605). The applicants respectfully traverse that rejection as possibly applied to amended Claims 2 et al. and to new Claim 39 et al.

The present invention enables a vehicle operator to use a mobile telephone handset in the vehicle without having to remove either hand from the steering wheel of the vehicle, and without requiring the expense of a separate mobile telephone built into the vehicle. The present invention accomplishes this result with a base unit mountable in a vehicle and removably receiving the mobile telephone, and a satellite remote unit separate from the base unit and mountable at a location (e.g., on the steering wheel, proximate to the hands of the driver. The mobile telephone has an electronic directory for storing telephone numbers together with names or other information identifying each number, and the remote unit allows the vehicle driver to access that directory of the mobile telephone without hands-on interaction with the telephone itself. An audio announcement of name and/or number accompanies the selection from the directory, freeing the driver from looking at a visual display. Once a desired number is obtained from the mobile telephone in the base unit, by means of the remote unit, the driver can

initiate a call to that party by operating a control on the remote unit. Likewise, the driver can terminate a call from the remote unit, without requiring hands-on manipulation of the mobile telephone received in the base unit.

The art applied to reject Claims 2 et al. does not disclose or teach the invention as described above and as defined in the claims. *Tsai* and *Stanley* each disclose mobile telephones substantially integrated into the steering wheel of a vehicle. Thus, *Tsai* includes numerical dialing buttons 27, mounted on the steering wheel 11. Those dialing buttons obviously require the driver to divert his or her vision from oncoming traffic in order to select and press the appropriate dial buttons 27 to initiate a call. Thus, although *Tsai* does mention connecting to a mobile telephone through a "mainframe" 30, that reference makes no mention of a remote unit capable of interacting with the electronic directory of a mobile telephone.

Stanley also discloses a steering-wheel interface having one or more keypads on the steering wheel. Those keypads include numeric keys either distributed along the steering wheel (Figs. 1 and 1a) or clustered in keypads (Figs. 2a and 3a), a visual display (1, 58), and various other controls. Although *Stanley* also mentions his mobile user interface as an ancillary unit to host cell phone (paragraph 0060), his plethora of controls on the steering wheel must require a driver's visual attention to press the appropriate buttons for dialing a number, and (inevitably) for reviewing that number on the steering-wheel visual display 1. The enhanced convenience afforded by the present invention simply is not present in *Stanley*, who likewise fails to teach the present invention to one of ordinary skill.

Newly-cited *Nakamura* is said to disclose "inherently accessing an electronic telephone directory", according to the rejection. *Nakamura* discloses a dialing device combining a "manipulation panel" or dial pad 10 and a display unit 30, as a portion of a portable telephone (column 2, lines 65-67). Notably *Nakamura* discloses a memory arrangement for specifying a sound within the musical scale, corresponding to respective storage locations (column 3, lines 36-39) in addition to destination names and telephone numbers (column 4, lines 50-55), allowing the user to specify a call destination only with the sound associated therewith (column 8, lines 9-17). However, *Nakamura* fails to disclose or suggest an audio announcement of name/number, or a remote unit operating an association with a separate mobile telephone and a cradle to receive that telephone, as disclosed and claimed.

Turning to the claims, Claim 2 defines a method comprising providing a base unit to receive a mobile telephone, accessing the electronic telephone directory of that above, and accessing the electronic telephone directory of that mobile telephone using a remote unit separate from the base unit. Claim 2 further calls for searching the electronic telephone directory by sending a signal from the remote unit to the mobile telephone in the base unit, to select an entry in the telephone directory, and generating an audible announcement of that entry. Lastly, Claim 2 requires sending a signal from the remote unit to the mobile telephone in the base unit to make the telephone call. This method combination is not taught or suggested by *Tsai*, together with *Stanley* and *Nakamura*. As mentioned, *Tsai* and *Stanley* both teach integrating a steering wheel with the dialing functions and controls—and the visual display, in *Stanley*—of a conventional mobile phone. Neither reference teaches a method using a remote unit to search and electronic

telephone directory separate from the base unit, signaling from the remote unit to select an entry in that directory, and generating an audible announcement of the entry, in combination with the other elements required by the method of Claim 2. One of ordinary skill, having those references in mind but lacking the present teachings, would not find any suggestion to provide a satellite remote unit cooperating with a base unit and a mobile telephone therein for searching the directory of that mobile telephone, generating an audible announcement of the entry in that telephone, and sending a signal to the mobile phone in the base unit to make a call to the selected directory entry. Moreover, the references teach the desirability of providing a complete dialing capability on the steering wheel, namely, numeral buttons and a visual display, instead of a remote unit featuring directory access to the mobile telephone as taught by the present applicants. For these reasons, the method as defined in Claim 2 and the claims depending therefrom would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill from the applied art.

Dependent Claim 9 adds the element of searching the electronic telephone directory, from the remote unit, by multiple entries at one time. The rejection of Claim 9 asserts that *Nakamura* "discloses inherently searches... by multiple entries at one time", citing element 30 of *Nakamura*. Element 30 is the display unit of *Nakamura's* portable telephone. Nothing in that display unit or in the corresponding text of *Nakamura* discloses, inherently or explicitly, searching the electronic telephone directory by multiple entries at one time. Although display unit 30 *displays* every two stored contents in the memory (column 4, lines 25-28), nothing in that reference discloses searching by multiple entries at one time, as required by Claim 9. For this further reason, Claim 9 is patentable over the art applied to that claim.

Turning to the new independent apparatus Claim 39, that claim defines a mobile communication system comprising a base unit for removably receiving the mobile telephone, a satellite remote unit separate from the base unit and operative for signal communication with the mobile telephone received in that unit, with the remote unit having at least one means operative to access the electronic directory of that mobile telephone. Claim 39 further requires means for audibly announcing the selected party who is to be called, with the remote unit having means operative to signal the mobile telephone in the base unit to place a call to the selected party. The cited combination of *Tsai*, *Stanley*, and *Nakamura* fail to disclose or suggest a mobile communication system having the structural and functional elements, and the overall combination of those elements, recited in Claim 39. As mentioned above, *Tsai* and *Stanley* teach integrating with a steering wheel most or all dialing functions of a mobile telephone, including number pads and (in *Stanley's* case,) a visual display emulating that of a conventional mobile telephone. One of ordinary skill, possessing those three references but not the disclosure of the present applicants, would lack the teaching of a mobile communication system including a satellite remote unit separate from a base unit for receiving a mobile phone, with the remote unit operative to access and search the electronic directory of that mobile phone, and signal the mobile phone to place a call to a directory party selected by the remote unit. These teachings come only from the present applicants, not from the cited art. Accordingly, new system Claim 39 and claims depending thereon are patentable over the applied art.

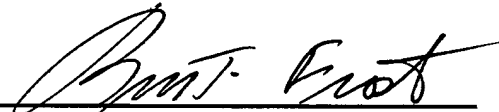
Dependent Claim 29 calls for the search device of the remote unit to search through the electronic telephone directory of the mobile phone by multiple entries at one

time. Claim 30 defines the search device as operating to search through the directory by one entry at a time, and requires that the remote unit further include means for searching the directory by multiple entries at one time. The previous rejection of Claims 29 and 30 mentioned *Nakamura's* supposed inherent disclosure of those features. However, the display unit 30 of *Nakamura* does not disclose searching multiple entries at one time, as mentioned above. Accordingly, those claims are patentable over the applied art for that further reason.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office action identified above. The applicants submit that all claims remaining in this application are patentable over the art of record and solicit a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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